

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OPR-01 PER-01 A-01 SSO-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 OC-01 CCO-00 INR-05 INRE-00

SY-02 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 EUR-08 FS-01 EB-03

RSC-01 /054 W

----- 006938

O 031456Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2935

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 1300

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, US

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF AMERICAN DEPENDENTS FROM ASMARA

AT 1600 HOURS LOCAL FEB 3 ACTING CONGEN ASMARA REPORTED

FOLLOWING TO EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE:

1. KAGNEW IS OUT OF WATER. G-3 SECOND DIVISION
STILL CLAIMS REPAIRS IN COURSE. SOME PARTS OF CITY DO
HAVE WATER BUT ITS POTABILITY UNCLEAR.

2. CONGEN UNDER RISING PRESSURE FROM PEOPLE DEMANDING
ACCESS TO ITS WATER AND ASKING FOR ASYLUM. HE IS RESISTING
THESE REQUESTS BUT DOES NOT RPT NOT KNOW HOW LONG HE
CAN CONTINUE TO DO SO.

3. ELECTRICITY STILL OUT. IT APPEARS ASMARA
ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEM IS DAMAGED AND IT UNCLEAR WHEN
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REPAIRS CAN BE MADE.

4. CONGEN INTENDS REQUEST AIR EVACUATION OF DEPENDENTS MORNING FEBRUARY 4 AS MATTER OF URGENCY. THAT REQUEST GOING FORWARD BY SEPTEL.

5. NAVY COMMANDER OF KAGNEW (LT. HYATT) HAS SENT MESSAGE THROUGH HIS CHANNELS REQUESTING EVACUATION OF ALL RPT ALL PERSONNEL. BASIC RATIONALE HIS REQUEST IS SITUATION CREATED BY LACK OF WATER. HE NOTES THAT WATER-COOLED POWER PLANT CANNOT LONG OPERATE WITHOUT COLLANT.

6. ADDIS EMBOFF REPORTING FROM ASMARA THAT SITUATION IN TOWN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND THAT IF BASIC SERVICES/UTILITIES NOT QUICKLY RESTORED IT LIKELY DETERIORATE SWIFTLY: "IF YOU WANT TO GET OUR PEOPLE OUT, YOU BETTER DO IT NOW."

7. ALTHOUGH WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE CAPABILITY OF AUTHORITIES TO RESTORE WATER AND ELECTRICITY, WE ARE NOT DISPOSED TO ARGUE WITH CONGEN THAT FURTHER PROLONGATION OUTAGES THESE ESSENTIALS ENTAILS LIKELIHOOD OF MAJOR CIVIL DISTURBANCES WITH ATTENDANT RISKS TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, ENDORSES CONGEN'S REQUEST.

8. WE BELIEVE BEST PATTERN OF IMPLEMENTATION WOULD BE THE MANDATORY EVACUATION OF ALL AMERICAN DEPENDENTS BY CHARTERED EAL JET TO ADDIS ABABA BEGINNING MORNING FEBRUARY 4, IF POSSIBLE. NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN ABOARD THIS PLANE, AS WELL AS BRITISH AND CANADIAN SUBJECTS WHO WISH TO LEAVE. FLIGHTS WOULD CONTINUE AS LONG AS THERE IS A LARGE GROUP OF AMERICANS, BRITISH, AND CANADIANS WHO WISH LEAVE.

9. ONCE IN ADDIS DEPENDENTS OF ALL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL SHOULD BE ISSUED TICKETS TO US AT USG EXPENSE. INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE NEEDED ON WHETHER DEPENDENTS OF CONTRACT PERSONNEL CAN STAY IN ADDIS FOR SOME TIME, NOT AT THEIR EXPENSE,
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TO SEE WHETHER SITUATION IMPROVES AND PERMITS THEIR RETURN TO ASMARA.

10. WE BELIEVE DECISION ON THIS ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED BY EPMG'S FAILURE THUS FAR TO GIVE US ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO PROVIDING SECURITY EN ROUTE TO AIRPORT. IF AFFIRMATIVE DECISION IS NOTIFIED TO EPMG IT WILL BE UNDER GREATER PRESSURE TO PRODUCE IMMEDIATE ANSWER.

WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SEND
CHARTER JET TO ASMARA UNTIL EPMG HAS PROVIDED ASSURANCES
WITH REGARD TO SECURITY OF ROUTE TO AIRPORT AND PERMISSION
FOR PLANE TO LAND. INDEED EAL COULD FLY WITHOUT CAA
PERMISSION TO PROCEED AND LAND.

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